

## **Mayor's Night Out**

### **Hawarden Hills / Alessandro Heights**

**Sept. 21, 2005**

#### **Resident #1**

**The water meter is rising out of the ground, about 4 inches up. What's causing this problem?**

This problem was resolved by 9:30 a.m., the morning following Mayor's Night Out. The water meter at this residence was elevated 2-3 inches above ground level. Water field staff adjusted the placement of this meter box. It is believed the box lifted gradually over a number of years from meter readers opening the hinged lid, which is a common occurrence. There was no evidence of other damage. Any further questions may be directed to Riverside Public Utilities Assistant Superintendent Pete Diaz at (951) 351-6384.

#### **Resident #2**

**The 91 East off ramp to Arlington is confusing. The exit leads onto Jane and Indiana; it provides no direction for Arlington. There is also a lot of litter at that off ramp.**

This location is scheduled for review and if required, the appropriate signage will be installed. If you have further questions regarding this, you may call Traffic Engineer Patricia Castillo at (951) 826-5148.

The Street Division will clean up around the city portion of the off ramp. The off ramp itself was referred to Caltrans. If you have further concerns or questions regarding this, you may contact Field Operations Manager Dan Batson at (951) 351-6127.

#### **Resident #3**

**a) When the landscaping will be done around the Learning Center?**

The Library Department contracts with the Parks & Recreation Department for the maintenance of the Casa Blanca Library & Family Learning Center landscaping. The Park & Recreation Department has hired a landscape contractor named Excel. This contractor is responsible for keeping the grounds immediately around the library building.

The grounds between the library building and Villegas Park belong to the Redevelopment Agency. It is intended that one-half of the space be used by Riverside Public Utilities as a drought-tolerant demonstration garden, dedicated to the memory of Kathleen Gonzales, former Deputy City Attorney. The parcel on the corner of Emerald and Madison is owned by Riverside Public Utilities and a building has been designed for that site. On Friday, October 7, the Public Utilities Board accepted the bid for construction. (see below)  
For more information, contact Library Director Judith Auth at (951) 826-5213.

**b) When is the Utility Center going to be built?**

The Casa Blanca Energy Resource and Customer Service Center was approved for construction by the Riverside Board of Public Utilities on October 7, 2005. Groundbreaking is scheduled for the end of October. Construction should be completed by late Fall 2006.

The 8,000 square-foot building will include a customer payment center, utilities business office and a multi-media conference room. The project includes construction of a landscaped plaza between the Family Learning Center, and will include a water-wise learning garden located on the east side of the Family Learning Center.

The building has specific design criteria that will enable it to act as a showcase that includes numerous technology advances. The building itself will be both naturally and mechanically ventilated for heating and cooling as required. The cooling aspect will be augmented through the use of nighttime air drawn in through specific ventilation openings. This drawing in of nighttime air will purge the warm air out of the building allowing the building mass itself to cool down during the night and continue to be cool during the next day. Higher air velocities through the use of ceiling fans will improve the comfort in the building. This air movement is referred to a “continuous breeze” environment in the building. The integration of cross-flow ventilation and ceiling fans with the HVAC system will be accomplished using intelligent computer controllers, electronically actuated dampers, and use of occupancy and temperature sensors. The controller panels and portions of the actual mechanical system will be visible to customers.

The use of natural lighting will be maximized in order to reduce artificial light sources. Natural light will be incorporated into the building using a range of direct and indirect sources including glass walls, clerestory windows and atria. The glass will be specially glazed to reduce the amount of heat transfer into the building.

Not only will this building provide a valuable asset for the Casa Blanca area, it will be a valuable asset for the City of Riverside as a whole. This building will showcase design and construction practices that significantly promote “Green” or “Sustainable” building design. For more information, contact Riverside Public Utilities Economic Development and Legislative Affairs Manager Gerald Buydos at (951) 826-5475.

**Resident #4**

**a) We need traffic relief, there is complete gridlock at the intersection of Madison and Indiana, from 91 off ramp.**

There is very little vehicle storage at this location due to the close proximity of Indiana Avenue and SR 91 ramps. To improve the operations at this location, the Traffic Engineering division is working with Caltrans to coordinate the traffic signal timing between the City of Riverside’s traffic signal at Indiana Ave and the Caltrans

traffic signal at the freeway ramp. If you have additional questions or concerns, you may contact Traffic Engineer Patricia Castillo at (951) 826-5148.

- b) There is a payphone at Indiana and Madison, which would not be allowed in Eastside, where the ordinance says that a payphone must be set back. This phone doesn't comply with such a setback.**

The restriction referenced in this complaint applies only to the University Avenue Specific Plan (Section 7.2.2) not citywide. However, Code Enforcement inspected the site and issued notice to the party responsible for the pay phone at 3320 Madison, to remove the phone from the public right-of-way by November 4, 2005. For further information, contact person Code Enforcement Manager Mark Salazar at 826-5633.

- c) There have been day laborers in the area for 30 years, and the situation is still not addressed effectively. School children are harassed when going by the laborers. There are drug concerns. How long do we have to wait?**

The day laborers situation is not unique to Riverside, it's across the country, said Ward 4 City Councilman Frank Schiavone. The cities of Los Angeles and Glendale, and other cities, have tried to enforce limitations on day laborers and those ordinances have been struck down, he said. The Chief of Police and the City Attorney are working on developing allowable measures for dealing with day laborers.

In the meantime, not all the laborers are illegal, Schiavone said. Casa Blanca is divided on this question; half disapprove of the laborers and half want a special center for them. A difficult question for some residents of Casa Blanca is: How many more years will neighbors keep providing places for laborers to stay?

The Riverside Municipal Code restricts rentals to no more than four boarders in addition to the owner (RMC Section 16.10.020 K). The Code Enforcement Division will respond to all complaints, investigate and initiate enforcement action as appropriate. If you have further questions, you may contact our Code Enforcement office at (951) 826-5633.

- d) Concerned about blighted properties at the corner of Madison and Railroad streets. There are a ton of weeds from Madison all the way to Jefferson.**

Code Enforcement staff will undertake inspections in the referenced area to determine if there are violations of the Riverside Municipal Code. The responsible agency, Riverside County Transportation Commission, was issued notice to bring the lot into compliance with the City's Municipal Code. For more information, contact person Code Enforcement Manager Mark Salazar at (951) 826-5633.

**Resident #5**

**a) The name of the neighborhood has been a topic of conversation. Where did the name come from?**

The Alessandro Arroyo, which meanders through the heart of this region, remains a place open for recreation. It provides natural open space very close to downtown, a unique feature that is the focus of strong preservation efforts. The Alessandro Heights neighborhood is enriched with three major natural arroyos; the Alessandro, the Prenda, and the Woodcrest (arroyos are natural flows of water, smaller than rivers). In addition to the arroyos, the undeveloped east side of this small community boasts rugged topography and natural plateaus.

The Hawarden Hills neighborhood takes its name from Hawarden Drive, which appeared on the Arlington Heights tract map in 1890. The English colony, which invested in and occupied Arlington Heights, brought those names familiar to the British Isles. Hawarden is actually a name from Flintshire, North Wales, where Hawarden castle, town and civil parish are located.

**b) Concern over Bradley St. What's the plan? Will it be two-lane? What's the timeline?**

According to the General Plan, Bradley Street is designated as a 66 foot collector road with one lane in each direction, plus room for parking or a bike lane. There are no improvements scheduled for Bradley Street at this time. If you have additional concerns, you may contact Traffic Engineer Patricia Castillo at (951) 826-5148.

**The responses to this and other recent Mayor's Night Out are available on the Internet at:**

**<http://www.riversideca.gov/mayor/nightout.htm>**

**For non-emergency assistance, call the City of Riverside CallCenter at (951) 826-5311**